

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Marine Corporal Kyle J. Grimes.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corporal Kyle J. Grimes upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Marine Corporal Grimes during combat operations; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes was a native of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, but his mother, Marybeth, had adopted Baton Rouge as her own after relocating there and now two communities share her grief and mourn the loss of another fine and valiant young man in the fight against terror; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes' strong love of his country was a major part of his patriotic and courageous decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps and fight the enemies of America and preserve the rights, liberties, and freedoms that guide this great nation; and

WHEREAS, while Corporal Grimes' was a highly motivated and totally dedicated Marine who thrived in the spartan environment of the Marine Corps world, he knew, that he truly wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement when his enlistment was finished and was considering the FBI as his next challenge; and

1 WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes was a member of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine
2 Regiment, 3rd Marine Division operating in the desolate, windswept western desert of Iraq,
3 a lawless place known as a terrorist transport point for foreign fighters intent on wreaking
4 chaos on all attempts to bring freedom and democratic government to an Iraqi people long
5 oppressed; and

6 WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes was 21 years old when he and his fellow Marines were
7 given the dangerous mission of conducting security and stabilization operations in the Syrian
8 Desert of extreme western Al Anbar Province, a haven for terrorist elements, in advance of
9 the first free elections in Iraq in more than 50 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes and 30 other brave Americans were en route, January
11 26, 2005, to their mission objectives where they would search for weapons, explosives, and
12 the men who planned to use them when the CH-53E Super Stallion Marine Helicopter they
13 were traveling in went down, for reasons known only to God, near Ar Rutbah, mortally
14 injuring all aboard the aircraft; and

15 WHEREAS, the grievous loss of Corporal Grimes and his military comrades was
16 almost more that the families and friends of those gallant men could endure, however, their
17 ultimate sacrifice for their country caused citizens around America to rally behind their
18 courageous efforts to insure that the Iraqi people got their opportunity, after standing in
19 endless lines, to safely cast a vote of their own choice; and

20 WHEREAS, Corporal Grimes will now and evermore represent the Marine Corps
21 motto, "Semper Fidelis," and serve as a "Forever Faithful" reminder that freedom is never
22 free and sometimes we must send our best to protect it and the many liberties that Americans
23 hold dear and cherish.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
26 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Marine Corps Corporal Kyle J.
27 Grimes for his role in protecting this nation's freedom from those who would harm it.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
29 transmitted to Marybeth and Steven LeVan.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Kyle J. Grimes.